



ARMY GROUND RISK-MANAGEMENT PUBLICATION

COUNTERMEASURE

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POV update
THRU SEP FY 98
117
POV FATALITIES
THRU SEP FY 97
93

**117 soldiers died on
city streets, country
byways, state highways,
and international
roadways in FY 98. . .**

SPECIAL: Pull-Out POV Posters Inside

ARMY GROUND RISK-MANAGEMENT PUBLICATION COUNTERMEASURE

The Official Safety Magazine for Army Ground Risk-Management

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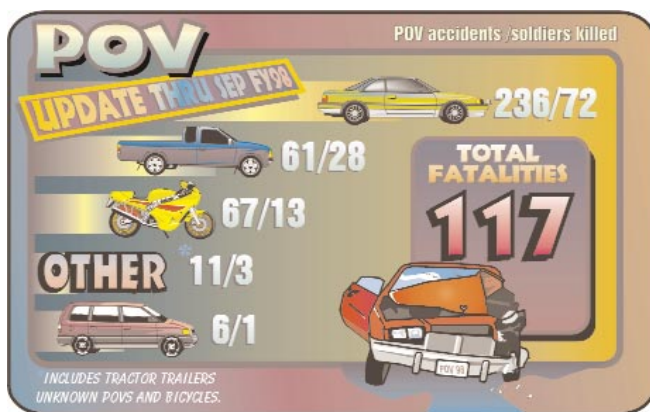
Graphics/Layout

Features

Roll Call!3

Posters

POV Posters5-8



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Charles M. Burke
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding Officer

From the Editor

Year after year, more soldiers are killed in privately-owned vehicle (POV) mishaps than in all other Army accidents.

Army accident records reveal the grim truth: soldiers continue to ignore speed limits, shrug off the “zzz-monster” of fatigue, travel too fast for weather and road conditions, leave seatbelts unbuckled, and yes—continue to mix alcohol with car keys.

Despite knowing what the major accident causes are, POV accidents continue to kill our soldiers. Any commander who has experienced the loss of a soldier understands that he has lost an important member of the Army family. He is often left with the question, “Did I do enough to prevent this from happening?”

There are many good programs that leaders can establish to keep high-risk drivers under control. Designated driver programs and unit on-the-spot safety inspections are good starting points. But just identifying hazards won’t save a soldier’s life. Leader involvement is key in gaining control and stopping this tragic loss of life.

General Dennis J. Reimer, Army Chief of Staff, has directed that commanders and leaders use the following six-point model POV Safety Program in every unit:

- **Command Emphasis.** Know your soldiers—assert positive, hands-on leadership on how, when, and where soldiers operate their POVs.
- **Standards.** Set and *enforce* high standards.
- **Provide Alternatives.** Provide soldiers some alternatives rather than driving POVs.
- **Discipline.** Conduct a records inspection to identify high-risk soldiers and take proactive measures to modify their risky behavior.
- **Risk Management.** Use the POV Toolbox to inculcate proactive risk-control measures. The toolbox is available at <http://safety.army.mil>
- **Commander’s Assessment.** Assess every POV fatality and serious injury accident with the chain of command.

Remember that your safety and well-being are important to us here at the Safety Center, as well as the Army and our nation.

Safety First!

Paula Allman

Roll Call!

This issue of Countermeasure recounts the 117 soldiers who died in POV accidents in fiscal year 1998. Most of the accident summaries cite the same causes of speed, fatigue, inattention, no seatbelts, and alcohol over and over again. These are vivid testaments to the fact that there are no new causes, just new victims — year after year after year.

■ PFC was killed while riding as a passenger in a car with a drunk driver. Driver drove off the side of the road and hit a mailbox.

■ PFC had been drinking throughout the night and was driving at an excessive rate of speed. He lost control of his vehicle and drove off the side of the road. Soldier was not using a seatbelt and was thrown from the car.

■ LTC died as a result of a motorcycle accident caused by improper braking.

■ SPC was killed when he lost control of his speeding POV, struck a wall, and overturned the vehicle. The soldier was not wearing his seatbelt and was thrown from the car.

■ SFC was killed when his speeding vehicle ran off the road and struck a pine tree and then a utility pole.

■ SPC, an experienced motorcycle rider, was killed when his motorcycle slid on a turn which had gravel and sand. He was thrown face first from the motorcycle into a rock formation.

■ CPT was killed when his vehicle left the side of the road and hit a guardrail, ejecting him when the driver's door swung open. Soldier was not wearing a seatbelt.

■ Cadet was killed when the driver of another vehicle fell asleep and crossed over the centerline, hitting the cadet's vehicle.

■ PV2 was pronounced dead on the scene when his POV was struck head-on by another vehicle in which the driver suffered a heart attack and drifted into the oncoming lane.

■ SFC died when he lost control of his vehicle, traveled across the median into oncoming traffic and collided head-on with another driver. There were no survivors.

■ SSG was killed when he struck a deer, lost control of his motorcycle, and rear-ended another vehicle.

■ SSG fell asleep or looked away from the roadway, crossed the centerline and collided with an oncoming tractor-trailer.

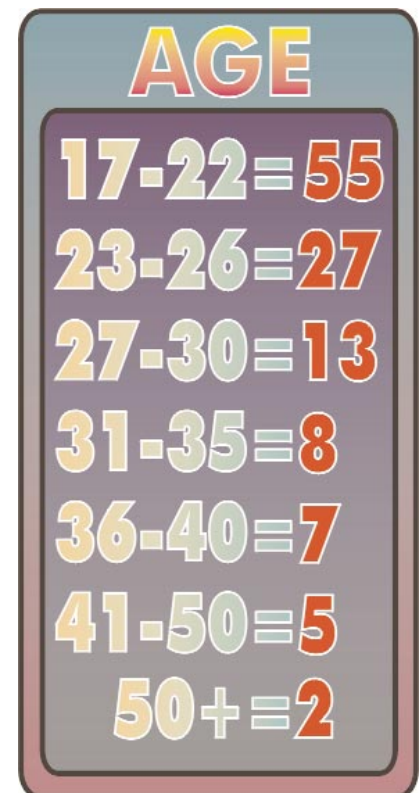
■ PV2 was killed while crossing a street in or near the crosswalk when a vehicle hit him.

■ SGT lost control of his vehicle, rolling it 2½ times while driving down a rural, two-lane road in the early morning.

■ PFC was killed while riding as a passenger in a car when the driver fell asleep at the wheel. The driver crossed over the centerline and collided head-on with another vehicle. After this crash, another vehicle struck the car a second time.

■ SPC and her unborn fetus were killed when she did not properly yield to traffic and collided with another vehicle. Her vehicle broke in half and she was thrown from the vehicle, ripping her seatbelt strap.

■ SPC was speeding at 85 mph and passing cars in front of him while intoxicated. He caused two cars to pull off to the side of the road to avoid an accident, and finally he had a head-on collision while driving in the



wrong lane. Both cars had no survivors.

■ **SPC** was driving at an excessive rate of speed when he attempted to stop and skidded out of control. The vehicle flipped and landed on its roof, killing him.

■ **SPC**, wearing proper reflective vest and helmet, was killed when another driver failed to yield the right-of-way to his motorcycle. Soldier was thrown 30 feet from his vehicle.

■ **SSG** fell asleep at the wheel en route to work at 0430. He was killed when he ran off the roadway and collided with a tree.

■ At approximately 0200, **PV2** and two other soldiers stopped to aid police officers in clearing an accident site. A drunk driver ran through the police barricade at over 70 mph killing the private.

■ **SSG** was driving his motorcycle at 95 mph when he hit a car attempting to make a turn. At impact, the sergeant was thrown 150 feet and was pronounced dead at the accident site.

■ **PVT** was killed when he lost control of his vehicle, left the roadway, and went into a pond.

RANK	
PVT	= 10
PV2	= 13
PFC	= 23
SPC	= 33
SGT	= 13
SSG	= 10
SFC	= 7
SGM	= 1
CW3	= 1
CADET	= 2
2LT	= 1
1LT	= 1
CPT	= 1
LTC	= 1

■ **SPC** lost control of his vehicle and struck a guardrail. His car overturned and he was ejected. Soldier was under the influence of alcohol and not wearing a seatbelt.

■ **PVT** experienced a mechanical problem with his car and pulled over to the shoulder of the highway to attempt to fix it. Another driver failed to see the private walking along the highway shoulder and struck him.

■ As the **SPC** was slowing down for traffic, she was rear-ended, forcing her car across the median and into a lane of oncoming traffic. She collided with a truck and was killed instantly.

■ **PFC** hit a patch of black ice and lost control of his car. His vehicle slipped into a ditch and rolled two times. He was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the car.

■ **SGT** veered into the wrong lane and crashed head-on with a semi-tractor trailer. The accident totaled the car and killed the sergeant.

■ **PVT** was killed as he attempted to pass another vehicle and slid off the road. Soldier was not wearing a seatbelt and was thrown from his POV.

■ **1LT** and a group of people were attempting to move the lieutenant's vehicle off the interstate highway when a drunk driver swerved into the crowd, hitting the lieutenant.

■ **PFC** was driving two **SPCs** and another **PFC** home from a night of socializing at nightclubs. Everyone, including the driver, had been drinking. Their car (traveling at 90-100 mph) swerved across the centerline and collided head-on with a semi-tractor trailer. The driver was pinned behind the steering wheel and the occupants were ejected from the vehicle. Everyone in the car was killed.

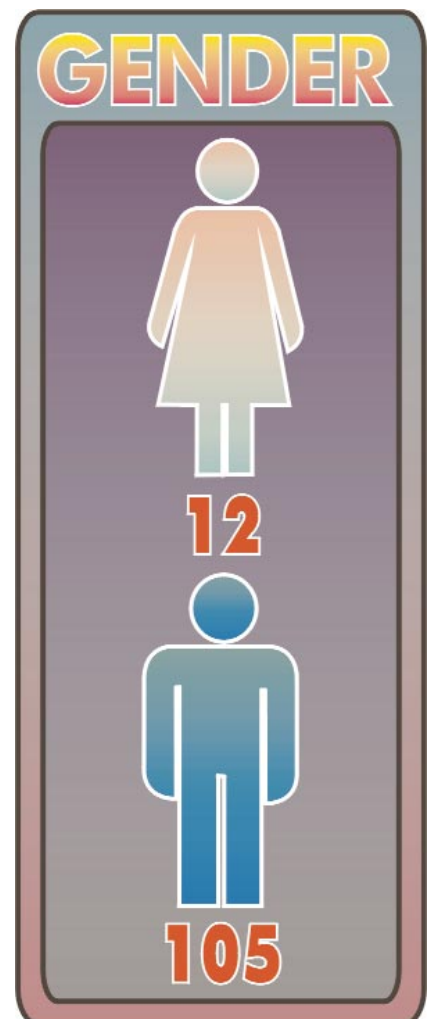
■ **PFC** was killed when he lost control of his POV while trying to negotiate a curve and driving too fast for road conditions. Soldier was under the influence of alcohol and not wearing his seatbelt.

■ **SFC** was weaving in and out of traffic on wet pavement at dark. Due to his erratic driving, the vehicle overturned and he was thrown from the vehicle. No seatbelt was used.

■ **PV2** was exceeding the posted speed limit by 35 mph when he lost control of his vehicle on a shallow curve and landed inverted in a pond where he drowned.

■ **SGT** lost control and rolled his vehicle at a highway intersection. He was not wearing his seatbelt and was thrown from the vehicle.

- **SGT**, a passenger in a car, was killed when the driver fell asleep at the wheel and drove off the side of the road.
- **PV2** was speeding and was intoxicated with a BAC of 0.13%. His car struck a concrete bridge guardrail and flipped. He was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected.
- **PFC** fell asleep at the wheel and rolled his vehicle. Soldier was not wearing a seatbelt and died as a result of his injuries.
- **PVT** lost control while trying to pass a car. The car slid off the road and overturned in a small pond where the driver became trapped. He was pronounced dead at the scene.
- **PVT** was driving at a high rate of speed. While attempting to pass another vehicle, he went off into a grassy portion of the shoulder, lost control of his vehicle, crashed into another car, and was killed.
- **SGT** fell asleep at the wheel and ran off the side of the road. His vehicle rolled, throwing him into the oncoming lane of traffic where he was hit by an 18-wheeler and a passenger car. Soldier was not wearing a seatbelt.
- **PV2** crossed the centerline and collided head-on with a semi-truck. He was killed instantly.
- **PFC** failed to stay alert and keep his vehicle in the correct lane of traffic. Soldier crossed the center median, continued into the other lane of traffic, and was hit by another vehicle resulting in fatal injuries.
- **PFC** died when he fell out of the back of a pick-up truck and landed in the roadway and was subsequently hit by another vehicle. Soldier was under the influence of alcohol.
- **SSG** suffered fatal injuries when he drifted left of the centerline and hit another car. Soldier was under the influence of alcohol.
- **Cadet** suffered fatal head injuries when another vehicle turned in front of her motorcycle, failing to give her the right-of-way. She attempted to stop, but skidded into the other vehicle.
- Two soldiers, **PV2** and **SPC**, were killed when they crossed the centerline and collided with an oncoming tractor-trailer.
- **PFC** was killed when he lost control of his vehicle, crossed the center median, and struck another car head-on. Soldier was driving at a high rate of speed, under rainy conditions, and not using a seatbelt.
- **PV2** fell asleep at the wheel, failed to properly negotiate a curve, and subsequently traveled over 300 feet before impacting a large oak tree. The vehicle caught fire, consuming the driver and the car.
- **SFC** was killed in an off-set head-on collision when a vehicle crossed the centerline and sideswiped another vehicle before crashing into the soldier's vehicle.
- **SGT** was killed while walking down a road at night and was struck by a POV driven by a civilian under the influence of alcohol.
- **SPC** lost control of his vehicle while driving 80-90 mph, over-corrected his error, and struck a utility pole.
- **SPC** lost control of his vehicle in a curve and rolled four times. He was not wearing a seatbelt and sustained fatal injuries.
- **PFC** failed to notice that a vehicle he was trying to overtake with his motorcycle was making a left-hand turn. He crashed into the rear side of the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries.
- **SSG** was killed when a speeding POV struck him as he was riding his bicycle. Soldier was wearing all appropriate safety equipment.
- **PFC** was traveling too fast for road conditions when he failed to





negotiate a curve properly and entered into a broadside skid, rolling into a ditch. He was not wearing his seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle.

■ **SPC** attempted to swerve his motorcycle out of the path of a vehicle making a left-hand turn. He ran off the road into a commercial sign and was thrown into a utility pole.

■ **PFC** fell asleep at the wheel. His car crossed the centerline, hit a culvert, went airborne, and flipped.

■ **SFC** ran off the side of the road when his vehicle filled with smoke. He suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns and died of smoke inhalation.

■ **SPC** was attempting to pass another vehicle when he realized that he did not have time to pass. He slammed on his brakes and hit the other vehicle, causing it to eventually roll on top of his vehicle, killing him.

■ **2LT** was speeding and passing other vehicles in an unsafe manner when he lost control of his vehicle and struck an oncoming pick-up truck.

■ **PVT** ran off the side of the road, hit an exit sign, and then proceeded to cross two lanes of traffic and hit the guardrail in the center. Soldier was not wearing his seatbelt.

■ **PFC** drove his vehicle on the shoulder of the road and hit the guardrail, then crossed both lanes, became airborne, and collided with a tractor-trailer. Death was immediate upon impact.

■ **PVT** was killed when he attempted to pass another vehicle while that vehicle, in turn, attempted to pass another vehicle in front of it. Soldier lost control of his POV and rolled several times. He was not wearing his seatbelt and was thrown from the vehicle and pinned beneath.

■ **SPC** was walking on the Autobahn when he was hit by a vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

■ **SPC** was walking along the road when he was struck by an automobile. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

■ **PVT** collided with a school bus when he attempted to pass the vehicle in front of him.

■ **SPC** had been counseled 48 hours before his accident for being a high-risk driver. He was on post restriction, but did not follow this order. He drove off post, fell asleep at the wheel, and was involved in a fatal crash.

■ **SPC** was driving on a wet road at a high rate of speed when he lost control of his vehicle while negotiating a curve. The vehicle left the roadway, struck a tree, and he and a passenger were ejected when the seatbelts failed. The specialist was killed.

■ **PFC** was involved in a single car accident. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

■ Two **PFCs** were killed when the front tire of their vehicle blew out causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle. The vehicle crossed the centerline, ran off the side of the road,

flipped several times, and then hit a utility pole.

■ **PFC** was riding his motorcycle too fast for the road conditions. While attempting to make a turn, he lost control of his vehicle, dropped it to one side and collided with an approaching truck in the oncoming lane. Soldier died instantly.

■ **SGT** was killed in a hit and run accident when he apparently walked in his sleep and wandered onto a highway.

■ **SFC** was killed when a tractor-trailer suddenly pulled into her lane, causing her to swerve her vehicle into the left side of the highway. Soldier's vehicle rolled on its side and struck a tree. She was not wearing a seatbelt.

■ **SPC** failed to properly negotiate a curve and lost control of his vehicle. He struck a sign and then a tree. Soldier was killed when he was trapped inside his vehicle and it caught fire. He had a blood alcohol level of .22.

■ **SPC**, a passenger, was killed when a trailer broke loose from the vehicle in front of his. The driver swerved and lost control of his vehicle. The soldier was ejected and the car rolled over him. The specialist was not wearing a seatbelt.

■ **SPC** was driving across railroad tracks with warning lights and bells activated when a train collided with his POV, killing him and a child who was a passenger.

■ **SFC** apparently fell asleep at the wheel and drifted into the median. He made a sharp turn to avoid a collision and lost control of his vehicle. The vehicle overturned at least seven times, eventually pinning the soldier beneath. Both he and one of his daughters sustained fatal injuries.

■ **SPC** was killed when the wheels of her vehicle went slightly off the side of the road into dirt and gravel. She lost control of her vehicle, crossed the road, and hit a tree.

■ **SSG** was driving home late at night after a night of drinking at a bar. He drove off the side of the road into a ditch. Soldier was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from his car.

■ **SGT**, who was riding his motorcycle, accelerated around a curve to catch up with friends he was following. He crossed the centerline and collided with an oncoming vehicle. His injuries were fatal.

■ **SPC** was involved in a single car accident. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

■ Two **PV2s** were traveling at a high rate of speed in wet conditions. While negotiating a curve, the driver lost control of his POV and hit a tree, ejecting and killing both soldiers.

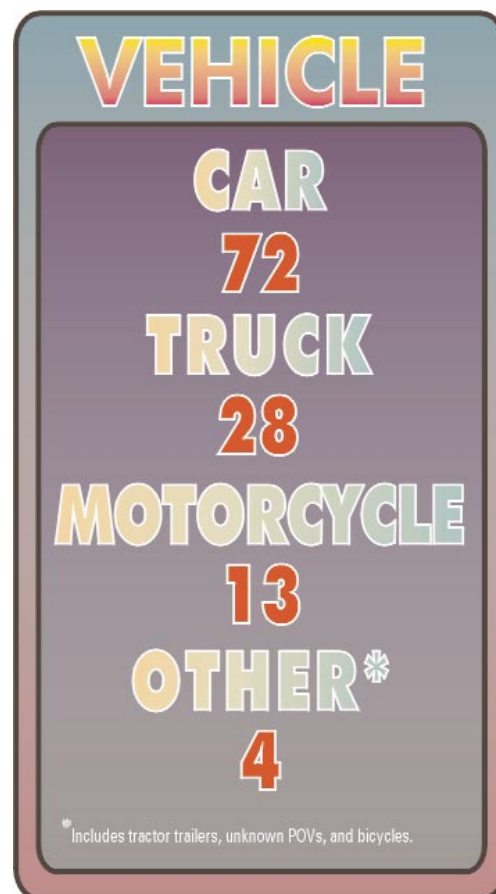
■ **SSG** was riding a borrowed motorcycle when he lost control and collided with a pole. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

■ **SPC** was killed when he lost control of his vehicle and struck a culvert. The vehicle overturned and the driver was ejected.

■ **SPC** lost control of his vehicle, hit the guardrail, crossed over into oncoming traffic, and struck another vehicle. He was pronounced dead shortly thereafter.

■ **PVT** was a passenger in a car traveling at a high rate of speed. The driver lost control of the vehicle on a curve, went off the road and hit a tree. Soldier was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the vehicle.

■ **SGT** was killed when his vehicle left the road and struck a



utility pole. He was thrown from the vehicle and was later found by a utility worker.

■ **PFC** attempted to pass a vehicle in a no-passing zone. He tried to avoid oncoming traffic, but lost control and hit a tree. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

■ **SSG** suffered fatal injuries when his vehicle was hit broadside by a speeding vehicle that ran a stop sign.

■ **SPC** was en route to PT when his vehicle hit loose gravel, proceeded off the side of the road, rolled, hit an embankment, rolled again, and burst into flames. Second and third degree burns covered 50 percent of soldier's body. His injuries proved fatal.

■ **PFC** was involved in a two-car accident. His injuries were fatal.

■ **SPC** fell asleep with two of his friends in a truck bed while waiting for the driver to take them home after a night spent at a bar. On the ride home, the driver saw the soldier stand up in the truck bed and then lose his balance. He fell into the road and was subsequently hit by an oncoming tractor-trailer. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

■ **SPC** made an illegal U-turn and was hit by an oncoming tractor-trailer.

■ **PV2** was speeding and ran off the road. He sustained fatal injuries.

■ **SGT** was bicycling with her husband when an automobile struck them, killing the sergeant.

■ **SGT** was killed when a POV pulled in front of his motorcycle, causing a fatal collision. POV driver was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol.

■ **SPC** was killed when his motorcycle struck a legally-parked van.

■ **PV2** and **PFC** were involved in a fatal head-on collision with a semi-tractor trailer.

■ **SGM** was speeding and ran off the right side of the road and overturned three times. He was not wearing a seatbelt and was thrown from the vehicle.

■ **SGT** was driving his motorcycle approximately 100 mph when he lost control and was fatally injured on impact.

■ **PFC** was killed when he was hit by a drunk driver who ran a stop light and collided with his car.

■ **PVT** was working on a detail to remove banners from the side of a highway. As he crossed the highway to retrieve a banner, he was struck by an oncoming vehicle. He died about a month later.



■ **SPC** and **SSG** were operating a cargo vehicle in a convoy when they were struck by a swerving semi-tractor trailer. Both suffered fatal injuries.

■ **PV2** was driving at a high rate of speed when his car ran off the side of the road. The crash was fatal.

■ **SGT** was hit by a tractor-trailer while attempting to cross the highway after exiting his wrecked, overturned vehicle.

■ **SPC** was crossing the street for PT formation when he was hit by a car.

■ **SPC** was a passenger in a car returning from a night of drinking. The driver failed to stop at a stop sign and lost control of his vehicle. The specialist was not wearing his seatbelt and was ejected from the car and killed.

■ **CW3** was ejected from his POV when another vehicle struck the side of his car causing it to roll several times. Soldier was not wearing a seatbelt and suffered fatal injuries. ♦